(b) what are the reasons for paint industry's lagging behind in its performance; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to solve the problems of the paint industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The growth of the paint industry during the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	*Production (in Tonnes*
1985-86	1,39,791
1986-87	1,68,000
1987-88	1,85,175

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Demand for withdrawal of minimum guarantee from PPCO

2833. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from Association of the Custodians of the Private Public Call Offices, Madras demanding withdrawal of the Minimum Gurantee of Rs. 500 per month charged from the custodians of PPCOs introduced from 1st April, 1988; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Production at Bharat Wagon Engineering Company, Patna

2834. *SHRI ERA SAMBASIVAM:* Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Wagon Engineering Company, Patna, gave physical growth in Production to the tune of 80 per cent and made profits of more than Rs. 2 crores during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) whether it is also a fact that production level and the profit during the current year have gone down tremendously, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) During the year 1986-87 the total production in BWEL, Patna was Rs. 3367 lakhs which included physical production of 1885 four wheeler units (FWUS) as against Rs. 1873 lakhs which included production of 1017.5 FWUS in 1985-86. The profit of the company during 1986-87 was Rs. 231.45 lakhs as against the profit of Rs. 14.09 lakhs in 1985-86. Thus the company achieved more than 80 per cent physical growth in production in 1986-87 as compared to 1985-86.

The company achieved a production of Rs. 2961 lakhs inclusive of 1603.5 FWUS in 1987-88 with a profit of Rs. 50.39 lakhs.

During the year 1988-89 the company has achieved production of Rs. 3465.25 lakhs inclusive of 1919.5 FWUS till end February, 1989. Anticipated production during the current financial year is Rs. 3799 lakhs inclusive of 2115 FWUS, with the anticipated profit of Rs. 94 lakhs.

The wagon production during the first 11 months of the current financial year has been substantially higher than any previous full year since BWEL became a Public Sector Undertaking.

The financial value of production has however been lower primarily on account of reduction in the base price of BOXN Wagons by the Ministry of